

福利改革對移民的影響



A Vulnerable Population

Fears Loss of Support

Welfare Reform Targets Elderly Support System

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VOICES

A Mission to End Domestic Violence

By Katherine Kong

More than 400 citizens and leaders gathered at Boston City Hall Oct. 5 to support the Asian Shelter and Advocacy Project's (ASAP) annual Silk Road Gala.

Dressed in culturally creative attire and feasting on food from Cambodian, Chinese, Japanese, South Asian, and Thai restaurants, the participants came together to support New England's first and only shelter that provides comprehensive services for Asian families suffering from domestic violence.

Supporters enjoyed an evening of good company and entertainment, which included lion dances and music. They also took part in a silent auction of a wide range of items, including a guided tour of the North End, gift certificates from area stores and restaurants, and a weekend getaway to Nantucket.

In addition to raising money for the shelter, the fund-raising gala is also a celebration of the Asian community's combined efforts to end domestic violence and make linguistically and culturally appropriate resources available to Asian families suffering from it.

Co-chaired by Mrs. Angela Menino and Dr. Susan Weld, the event was attended by Boston Mayor Thomas Menino and many local community and political leaders. Uma Pemmaraju, former co-anchor of WBZ News at Noon, presided as mistress of ceremonies.

Domestic violence is currently the leading cause of injury to women between the ages of 15 and 44, according



Angela Menino and members of the Silk Road Gala Committee at the City Hall event last month.

Photo by Richard K. Chung

to the Surgeon General. Although Asians constitute only 2.4 percent of the state's population, 10 percent of persons who died in Massachusetts as a result of domestic violence last year were Asian. In light of these alarming statistics, the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence provides a vital service to Asian battered women and their children.

In Massachusetts, the Asian population includes Cambodian, Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, Laotian, and South Asian communities, and each of these communities has its own distinctive languages and cultural institutions. Without advocates who can speak their language and understand their social

codes and expectations, many victims of domestic violence from these communities would be unable to speak up for themselves in court, file orders of protection, obtain emergency shelter, receive counseling, or even know that help is available. For many people within - and outside of - the Asian communities, it is still news that domestic violence is against the law.

The Task Force's and ASAP's multilingual advocates and counselors are able to bridge linguistic and cultural barriers to provide services to many recent Asian immigrants. Though the Task Force is a small organization, its programs are far-reaching. Since its founding in 1992, the organization's

greatest achievement has perhaps been the establishment of ASAP, which has provided services to more than 300 clients since its inception in 1994. These services currently include a 24-hour multilingual hotline, emergency shelter, on-site English as a second language classes, legal advocacy, assistance with healthcare, housing, public benefits, individual counseling, survival workshops for immigrants, parenting skills workshops, services for children, and referrals for job training and educational opportunities. Services are also provided for women who may not need shelter but who are victims or survivors of domestic violence. In addition to these programs and services, the Task Force is undertaking a new initiative this year to expand its ESL, education, and outreach programs.

The Silk Road Gala has as its namesake the historical passage between Asia and Europe used centuries ago by silk traders. Its significance today is still relevant.

The mission of the Task Force is to eliminate family violence and strengthen Asian families and communities.

(The ASAP Hotline is (617) 338-2355. All inquiries and services are confidential.)

(Katherine Kong is Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator at the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence.)

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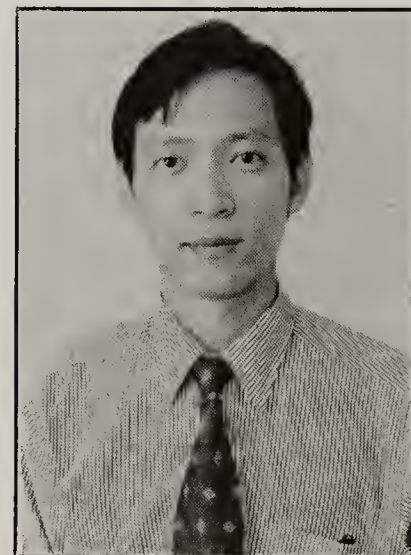
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INTERVIEW

Any description of March Fong Eu's political life in California must make ample use of the word first: She was the first woman to be elected California Secretary of State and the first Asian-American to be elected to statewide office. She was also the first Asian American woman to be elected to the California State Legislature.

Campaigning for Clinton and Kerry

Eu, who recently resigned as US Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia to participate in the Clinton-Gore reelection campaign, was in Boston earlier this week to drum up support for Sen. John Kerry and the Democratic ticket. During her stay in Boston, she met with members of the Asian Pacific American Agenda Coalition and visited a number of Chinatown agencies. She also attended a Women for Kerry Rally at Faneuil Hall on Tuesday.

Eu says she has been willing to work for the Clinton campaign because she believes "he sincerely recognizes that our country is not made up of just one kind of people." And while Kerry voted for the Republican-sponsored welfare reform bill, which made non-citizen immigrants ineligible for many social benefits, she argued that he did so in order to begin the process of genuine welfare reform. She said Kerry has vowed to work to amend the sections of the law that are unduly harsh on legal immigrants if he is reelected.

California Politics

Eu was elected in 1966 to represent parts of Oakland and Castron Valley in the California Assembly, and later served five terms as California Secretary of State. She began her political career by being elected to serve on the Alameda County Board of education. Her interest, she explains, grew naturally from her concerns about her children's education. "I was kind of like a self-starter," she says. "I wanted to have some say in what happened to my children."

A third-generation Chinese American, Eu was the first member of her family to be involved in California politics. "Asians are inclined to be very successful in business and other activities, but they stay away from government," she said. Part of this lack of interest in the past has been due to the



March Fong Eu in front of the Asian American Civic Association in Chinatown this week.

Ambassador March Fong Eu

status of many Asian Americans: many, for example, are immigrants and remain more connected politically to their native country than to the US. "That will change," she says, as the American-born Asian population increases.

Asians and Voting

As Eu campaigns around the country for the Democratic ticket, she has been urging Asian Americans to become more involved in the electoral process. "Nationwide there are over 9 million Asian Americans in the US, but only about 1.1 million are registered to vote," she said in one recent speech. "Only 53 percent of all Asian Americans who are US citizens are registered to vote." In California, she said, "Asian Americans comprise approximately 10 percent of the state's population but only 5 percent of the state's registered voters. Only one in 300 who vote on election day is an Asian American. There is only one legislator and one constitutional officer of Asian American descent in the California state elected government," she said.

Although Asians have one of the highest rates of naturalization after immigration, they have one of the lowest

rates of voter registration after becoming citizens. "These are disturbing statistics and Asian Americans should take note of them," she said. "They should do something about them."

Serving five terms as California's Secretary of State has made her sensitive to the issue of voting, particularly among Asian Americans. "A lot of that is going to involve education," she says, "but it's going to be difficult to change their perceptions and attitudes."

"Hopefully the younger generation coming along will do that," she says, adding that Asians interested in seeking political office also need more role models. "They're really proud that I did what I did," she says of the younger Asians Americans she has been meeting. "If I can be Secretary of State, they can be governor of the state someday," she says. "But we need more role models."

"Asian Bashing"

Eu says she is also concerned about the "Asian bashing" fomented by the Republican Party during the presidential campaign. She believes that recent stories charging Democratic fund-raiser

John Huang with illegally soliciting foreign campaign donations were unfair.

She believes the attacks were purely political and unjustified and have "left a chilling impact on the Asian American community."

She says reporters have been harassing Asians who made political contributions by looking for Asian names on contributors lists and calling them up. Once they had the contributors on the phone, they would ask them many inappropriate questions, such as why they gave money, what country they were from, whether they were citizens and when they had been naturalized. "It has left a chilling impact."

"They (Asian contributors) don't want to have anything to do with politics because of that," she says. Eu adds that Asians have names and facial features that have tended to set them apart from other Americans. At times, they have been relegated to "second-class citizenship." Many Asians have worked hard to overcome these obstacles. Suggesting that Asian political contributions are illegal or have been made by foreigners is the kind of attitude that can complicate Asian efforts to assimilate, she says.

"We have to make sure politicians don't use Asian Americans as scapegoats," she says. "I fault the Republican Party for that Asian bashing."

Though Eu recently resigned as ambassador to campaign for Clinton, she suggests she will continue in that position or take another one if Clinton is reelected. Eu says she greatly enjoys her work and would eventually like to serve in another Asian country, perhaps as US ambassador to Singapore.

"I would like very much to continue to serve as an ambassador," she says. "I have found my job very very interesting." The key to being "a successful ambassador" is developing "good human relationships," she says.

In addition to her political life, Eu has also been praised for her Chinese brush painting and calligraphy. When she went to Taiwan about eight years ago to study Chinese, she also studied Chinese brush painting. It turned out that she actually had a talent for painting. Although time constraints have kept her from painting since becoming an ambassador, she says that "soon as this election is over I've told myself I'm going to paint again."

-Robert O'Malley

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COVER STORY

When Congress passed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 earlier this year, it struck at several of the essential government supports of the elderly Asian immigrant community, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

While the welfare reform bill was largely meant to reform the nation's welfare system by reducing the number of years people could receive support and by requiring recipients to work, it also dramatically reduced the eligibility of non-citizen legal immigrants for a wide range of government-supported social programs.

Under the bill, which was signed by President Clinton last summer, non-citizen legal residents are no longer eligible to receive SSI - a program that provides monthly financial support for the poor, elderly, and disabled. While most Americans are eligible to receive Social Security when they retire, immigrants of retirement age who came to this country late in life have not worked long enough to qualify for such support. To ensure that they were protected, the US Government has in the past provided them with SSI and Medicaid.

At the Josiah Quincy School auditorium last week, the Chinatown Coalition and the Asian Pacific American Agenda Coalition sponsored a community meeting to inform people of the effects that the welfare reform bill will have on their access to government social services and income supports. The majority of the people attending the meeting were elderly legal residents - the people who are most at risk as a result of the welfare reform legislation. Most of those attending the meeting were over 60 and appeared to be living in government-subsidized housing and receiving SSI and Medicaid. Less than a third were citizens, though some said they had begun the process of becoming naturalized.

The Effects Of the Bill

Guiding the largely elderly audience through the details of the bill were Greater Boston Legal Services attorneys Zenobia Lai and Cindy Mark.

The recently passed welfare reform bill would:

- *Impose a federal bar on SSI and food stamps until citizenship. Under previous law, legal residents were eligible for SSI five years after entering the US. Exempt from this requirement are refugees, asylees, and persons granted withholding of deportation (for five years only), veterans, and persons who have worked 10 qualifying years in the US.

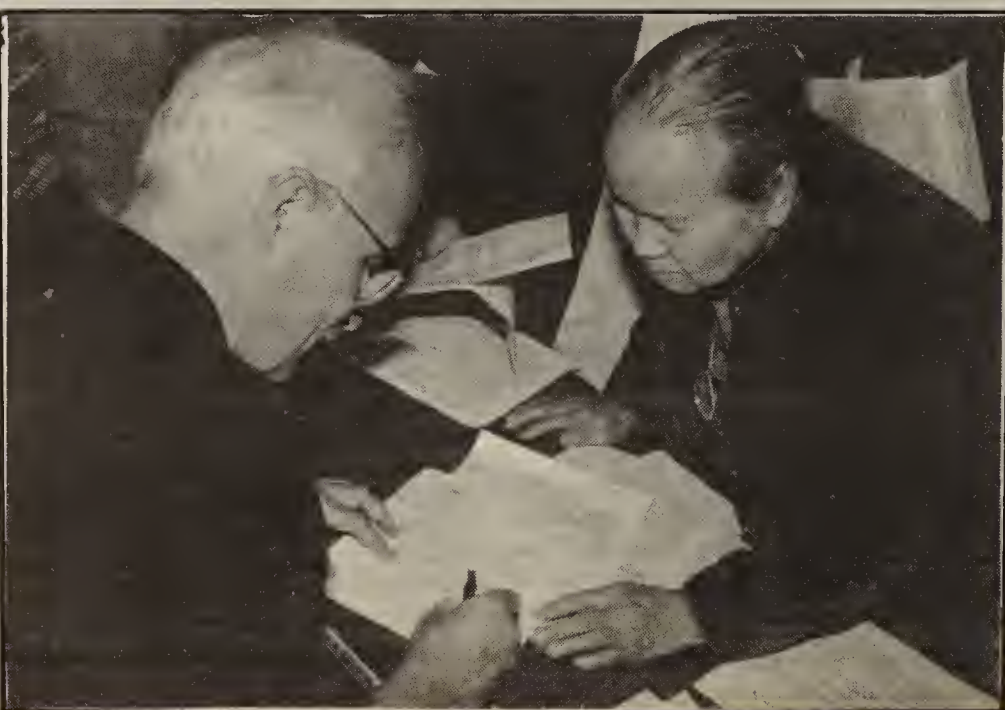
- *Impose a federal bar for five years after entry on Assistance to Needy Families (TANF, which replaces Aid to Families With dependent Children, or AFDC), non-emergency Medicaid, Title XX block grants, and other federal means-tested programs. Persons who have entered as "qualified" aliens before enactment of the bill would not be affected. Refugees, asylees, and persons granted withholding of deportation are exempt.

- *Allow a state the option to bar TANF, non-emergency Medicaid, and Title XX block grants until citizenship. Advocates say it is unclear if Massachusetts will exercise this option. Many observers seem to suggest that the state would continue to provide Medicaid.)

- *Allow a state option to bar or limit "qualified immigrants," non-immigrants, and parolees living in the US for less than one year from receiving state public benefits.

Under the welfare reform bill the deeming of a sponsor's income would apply to legal residents applying for the following benefits:

- *SSI, TANF, food stamps, and other federal means-tested public benefits. Deeming will kick in until citizenship or



(Top) Elderly signing letters to be sent to Gov. Weld at a community conference on the welfare reform bill. (Bottom) Rev. Denis Como helps a Chinatown resident prepare a letter at the Chinatown conference.

Welfare Reform Targets Elderly Support System

until a legal resident has worked 40 quarters. This requirement does not apply to residents who entered the US before enactment of the welfare reform bill on Aug. 22, 1996.

Legal immigrants who work 40 qualifying quarters (10 years) in the US are exempt from:

- *the federal bar on SSI and food stamps
- *the federal deeming requirement
- *the state option to bar legal immigrants from receiving TANF, non-emergency Medicaid, and Title XX.

The Welfare bill will reduce federal spending by an estimated \$54.1 billion over six years, and about 44 percent of

the savings will be at the expense of social services for legal immigrants. About \$13.3 billion will be saved by ending SSI for legal immigrants.

Mark said current recipients of SSI would likely receive a termination notice in March 1997. She suggested, however, that SSI recipients should appeal the decision to determine if they fall into one of the exempt categories. Mark and Lai said current food stamp recipients would lose their benefits after April 1, though persons who applied before Nov. 29 could receive a temporary extension.

Governor Weld vowed earlier this year to protect elderly legal residents

who lose SSI as a result of the proposed welfare reform legislation. Ruth Moy, executive director of the Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center, said Nam Pham, director of the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants, recently assured her that the state would provide support for elderly who lose SSI, though the amount they receive may be less than their current benefits. Advocates said that the elderly would receive support under the Emergency Aid to Elders, the Disabled, and Children program.

While legal immigrants will no longer have access to certain means-tested programs, they will still be eligible for such programs as Emergency Medicaid, programs under the Job Training Partnership Act, Head Start, WIC, the school lunch program, and higher education loans and grants. The state is considering creating a voucher system to replace food stamps for some recipients, said Lai.

The Elderly

While the details of the welfare reform bill are matter-of-fact, the elderly lives to be affected by the changes are multifaceted. The people who stand most to lose are some of the most vulnerable immigrants living in the US today. Many came to the US at a late age to join their children and care for grandchildren. Most worked for a number of years before reaching retirement age.

Unable to earn enough to support themselves in their 60s and 70s, they must rely on family or government assistance for housing, health care, and monthly income.

Many suggest that their children would be unable to support them if they lose their government supports, since they are themselves struggling to support families in the US.

Although elderly non-citizens have the option to become citizens to gain access to benefits, many fear they won't be able to learn English well enough to pass the English-language section of the citizenship exam. Many, however, have begun the process of becoming naturalized.

Elderly voting is another issue being emphasized as a result of the recent wave of anti-immigrant legislation. Some of those who have already become citizens could be seen registering to vote at last month's community meeting. Many of the elderly residents who attended the meeting also signed letters to be sent to Gov. Weld urging him to provide support for persons who will lose SSI.

Elderly Stories

Bao Xian Cai

Bao Xian Cai, 67, came to the US from Guangzhou, China in 1986 to join her son. When Bao first came to Boston, she worked as a dishwasher in a Chinese restaurant. After working for seven years, she lost her job and became eligible for SSI. She and her son now share an apartment in Chinatown's Mass Pike Towers. They live on her \$506 monthly SSI payment and his income, which is unstable. She says her son has an unspecified illness that only allows him to work sporadically. While Bao says she is studying to become a citizen, she nevertheless remains worried about the future. If she loses her SSI, she says, she will have to go out to find work again. She can't receive Social Security because she has only worked in the US for seven years.

Return to China?

Zhen Xin Ja, 75, is also worried. Zhen came to the US in 1988 to join her two children in the Boston area. While she and her husband currently live in



Most of those attending the conference were over 60 and receive SSI. Less than one third were citizens

COVER STORY



Greater Boston Legal Services attorneys Zenobia Lai (l) and Cindy Mark at the conference.



A show of hands in answer to a conference question.

Hong Lok House, a 28-unit elderly residence in Chinatown, their children live in Quincy and Malden.

When she first arrived in the US, Zhen worked as a baby-sitter for her grandchildren - a typical job performed by many elderly parents who come to the US to join their children. Although it is important work that contributes to the stability of immigrant families by helping them become more financially stable, it's not the kind of job that allows people to accumulate work quarters with Social Security or gain recognition in the larger society.

Zhen says she currently receives \$450 a month in SSI. Although she wants to become a citizen, she worries she won't be able to pass the English portion of the citizenship test. If she loses SSI, she says, she may have to return to Toisan, China. Her children, she explains, don't have enough income to provide a living for her and her husband. Zhen says she is hopeful that the state will provide a replacement payment for the SSI the federal government will soon take away from her and her husband.

Becoming a Citizen

Mrs. Lam, 72, lives in a subsidized elderly apartment in the South End. Both she and her husband rely on SSI for their income, and they are worried they will lose it.

Lam says her sister sponsored her and her husband to come to the US from a village in China's Guangdong Province in 1984. She and her husband then sponsored three of their four children to immigrate to the US.

When she and her husband arrived in the US, she worked in factories that produced pharmaceutical products and belts, and he worked in restaurants.

Six years later, after becoming eligible to receive SSI, she retired. Lam says if she loses her SSI now she may be forced to return to her home village in China. Though she enjoys living in the US, particularly since most of her

children are here, she says she would have to return to China if she loses government support. "My children also have a very difficult life here," she says. "It would be difficult for them to support us."

Lam, however, is currently studying to become a citizen and will soon have an interview in English. Like most people applying for citizenship, she is worried about her ability to pass the English portion of the test. Lam says she had one year of schooling in China and has a limited ability to read and write Chinese. She suggests that she recently passed the English multiple choice citizenship test by guessing and by carefully studying the questions, which she says she answered without really knowing the meaning of the words.

Losing Welfare

While most legal immigrants are worried about losing SSI and Medicaid, Mrs. Lee also stands to lose her eligibility to receive welfare, which she has been receiving on and off since the late 1970s.

Lee came to the US from Hong Kong in 1979. Not long after her arrival here, her husband died and she found herself in a new country with two small children to raise. She applied for welfare to support them and has been receiving it on and off since. State and welfare reform measures mean that Lee, who now has one child at home, must discontinue collecting welfare next year.

Lee is now close to finishing up a two-year associate's degree program at Bunker Hill Community College. She also earns a small amount of money delivering newspapers in Quincy. Over the years she has volunteered in Chinatown and held a number of part-time office jobs, but none seemed to suit her or provide her with adequate income and health insurance to support her and her children.

Lee believes the major obstacle she has faced in the work world over the years has been her lack of education and inability to speak English well. "Even

though I doubt my future, I just keep going," she says.

Over the years she has observed that few Chinese receive welfare. She says that even her brother condemns many people who refuse to work and continue to receive welfare. She says her own situation has been complicated by her husband's death, a language barrier, and the need to support children.

"I don't see the Chinese [receiving welfare] very much," she said. "They feel shame" or are "afraid the government will kick them out [of the US]."

Uncertainties

In many ways, the effect the bill will have on legal immigrants is still unclear. Lai, for example, said it's still unclear whether Medicaid for legal immigrants will be available over the long term, since the states have the option of withholding it until citizenship. She and others note that health care continues to be the most pressing issue for the immigrant elderly, since paying for it themselves would be too costly. Lai said the cost of a year's health insurance for a person over 60 would be at least \$7,000. The welfare bill, she added, "is going to have a significant effect on families. Even their families are not that well off."

Lai said Attorney General Janet Reno has said that programs to protect life and safety would not be affected by the reform bill. Such programs would include English as a second language and vocational training, she said.

"I think it will become clearer as time goes on," she said of the ramifications of the bill.

Moy suggested that the long-term effect would be a reduction in immigration, since families would be less willing to sponsor their relatives if few social services are available here.

Strategies to Protect People

Lai said advocates in the Asian community will now focus on helping the elderly become citizens. She said

lawyers will also encourage spouses to combine their work quarters so both will be eligible to receive SSI. This procedure is allowed by Social Security, but many elderly are unaware of it. A non-citizen must now have worked 40 quarters (10 years) to qualify for SSI.

Political Pressure

Many of the elderly people attending last week's community meeting sent letters to Gov. Weld applauding him for earmarking \$30 million in the FY 1997 budget for legal immigrants and refugees who lose government support as a result of the welfare reform bill. The letter asks Weld to include adequate funds for the same purpose through the state's EAEDC program in the coming budget.

Several speakers said that people need to exert pressure on legislators. One participant suggested that members of the Asian community should let their views be heard during the comment period for block grant applications. He also suggested that members of the Asian community should contact the following legislators to inform them of their concerns: Sen. Stanley Rosenberg, chairman of the the Senate Ways and Means Committee; Rep. Paul Haley, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee; Sen. Therese Murray, chairperson of the Committee on Human Services and Elderly Affairs; and Claire McIntire, Department of Transitional Assistance (for block grant appropriations).

Bonnie Cronin, Sen. John Kerry's chief of staff in Boston, said Kerry would support legislation to address the shortcomings of the welfare bill if he is reelected next week. Kerry supported the welfare reform legislation in the Senate.

"He didn't agree with the food stamp provisions and the SSI provisions," she said. She added that Kerry voted for the bill because he wanted to see some progress on welfare reform and that the senator supports moving people from welfare to work provided that job training and child care supports are available. "he's been talking about welfare reform since 1972 when he ran for Congress," she said.

Text and Photos by Robert O'Malley

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On the Cover: Lydia Lowe of the Chinese Progressive Association helps two Chinatown residents fill out a survey at last week's conference on the effect welfare reform will have on the Asian community.

CHINATOWN

Former CCBA President Sentenced

Reggie Wong, former president of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, has been sentenced to serve more than two years in federal prison for money laundering.

Wong, 54, was sentenced by US Judge Frank M. Hull for money laundering in connection with "Operation Highbind." Kent B. Alexander, US Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, said in a statement that Wong was sentenced to two years and nine months in prison and was ordered to pay \$29,940 in restitution and criminal forfeiture to the United States. He was also given a three-year period of supervised release.

Wong pled guilty on June 3 to a one-count criminal indictment for money laundering by accepting \$35,000 in cash loans, which had been represented to be the proceeds of illegal drug sales. Wong agreed to change the cash into checks in order to "launder" the cash," according to the statement.

"Operation Highbind" was a two-year federal undercover "sting" operation in which the FBI looked into possible illegal activities being conducted in Atlanta and elsewhere by current and former officials of organizations known as the Hip Sing Tong Association and the Hung Mun Association, according to the statement.

A witness who cooperated in the operation told Wong that he had large



Reggie Wong gives his first speech after becoming president of the CCBA in 1994.

sums of US currency that belonged to drug dealers and were the proceeds of illegal drug trafficking. He told Wong that the drug dealers were seeking to launder the cash through loans or investments into illegal gambling activities such as sports bookmaking operations and casinos.

The plan was to have the money laundered through members of the Hip

Sing or Hung Mun, who in turn would repay the principal, interest, and dividends on these loans or investments by check or money order to a company called Jasmine, Inc. at 1627 Peachtree Street in Atlanta. Jasmine, Inc. was an undercover business established by the FBI as a "front" for the witness.

The US attorney's office said that between Nov. 4, 1994 and Dec. 12, 1994, Wong, "with the intent to conceal and disguise the nature, source, and ownership of property believed to be the proceeds of unlawful activity, knowingly and willfully conducted a financial transaction affecting interstate commerce" by transferring and disposing of \$20,000 in US currency to be repaid by check or money order.

Assistant US Attorney James Deichert, chief of the Organized Crime Strike Force, said Wong received money in Atlanta and Boston in connection with the illegal activity. The activities for which Wong has been charged took place while he was serving as CCBA president.

"Operation Highbind" culminated with arrests and the execution of search warrants in Atlanta starting Feb. 2, 1996 by the FBI, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), local police, and others. Search warrants were also executed by FBI and INS agents in San Francisco, Cleveland, Denver, and New York City. Wong is one of 26 defendants

indicted on Feb. 5, 1996. Hearings and sentencings are continuing for the defendants in "Operation Highbind," according to the US Attorney's office in Atlanta.

In recent years, Wong has been a highly visible player in the Chinatown community, serving as the CCBA president during 1994 and 1995 and as a member of the Chinatown Neighborhood Council. At many community events during his tenure as CCBA president, Wong could often be seen on the same stage with political figures such as Mayor Menino and City Council President James Kelly.

Wong has long been active in the Knights Athletic Club and in the Chinese Freemasons. He helped organize the North American Chinese Invitational Volleyball Tournament held in Boston's Chinatown in 1994. He is also the owner of Weggie's Pub in the Leather District.

During Wong's tenure as CCBA president, Mayor Menino gave CCBA the right to develop Parcel C after a bitterly fought community effort to stop construction of a New England Medical Center garage on the site. CCBA was chosen to oversee development of the site because of its standing in the community.

Community Reviews Washington Street Options

Members of the Chinatown community were given their first look at an MBTA proposal to replace diesel buses on Washington Street with an electric bus system last month.

The 60-foot electrically-powered buses would run between Downtown Crossing and Dudley Square in Roxbury and are meant to replace the former elevated Orange Line. The MBTA had planned to start construction of the project next fall and complete it within a year.

Mary Soo Hoo of the Chinatown Neighborhood Council said she still favors an original plan to have a Light Rail Vehicle (LRV) running underground through Chinatown to replace the Orange Line service. In 1989, the Chinatown Neighborhood Council had agreed to join the Washington Street Corridor Coalition in supporting an LRV plan that would require trains to run underground through Chinatown.

Neil Chin, who attended last month's MBTA community meeting at Emerson

College, suggested that the best solution for Chinatown would be non-polluting compressed-natural-gas-powered buses. He noted that the LRV option would require placing tracks on Washington Street, while the proposed electric buses would require the construction of overhead electrical lines. "We don't want either one of them," he said, adding that South End and Roxbury groups appear to want an LRV.

"We were told that the MBTA was leaning very strongly toward an electric bus and the LRVs were not considered to be a viable option," he said.

While the Washington Street Corridor Coalition has been advocating for the LRV plan, which would be more costly than the electric bus system, some residents and business owners in the South End appear to be willing to accept the electric bus plan. Some people apparently fear that a squabble over the issue will further delay implementation of any new service.

Although the MBTA, which current-

ly has money to construct an electric bus system, had previously argued that adding another line to the Green Line would delay service on existing lines, it

has agreed to restudy the issue. It also plans to schedule a meeting in Chinatown to give the community the opportunity to discuss the issue further.

Fire Damages Chinatown Restaurant

The McDonald's restaurant in Chinatown remained closed this week following a smoky seven-alarm fire that brought 160 fire fighters to Washington and Kneeland Streets in Chinatown on Oct. 16.

The lunch-time fire apparently began in the ceiling separating McDonald's and the Grand China restaurant.

Steve MacDonald, a spokesman for the Boston Fire Department, said the fire traveled through the ceiling and sent smoke billowing from the building. It remained unclear last week whether the fire originated in the McDonald's or in the Grand China restaurant.

Observers said smoke could be seen billowing from the building, though no flames were visible. Fire fighters had to knock out the windows of the McDonald's restaurant to fight the fire.

About 350 people were evacuated from the first and second floors of the building, but no injuries were reported.

The building is owned by David T. Wong, who last month opened the



Fire fighters at the Chinatown McDonald's building.

Grand China, which is now the city's largest restaurant.

MIS MANAGER

Mass Bar Assn seeks MIS Manager responsible for the management information systems and needs of the MBA and related organizations. MIS duties include telecommunications, training and technical support and planning for migration of legacy system to client/server. Administrative duties include MIS development planning and budgeting, technology procurement, and supervision of two person MIS staff. Extensive contact with all levels of staff, consultants and vendors. Minimum requirements a degree in Computer Science & 5 years experience with increasing supervisory and management responsibility. Must also have technical experience in LAN, Mac OS, word processing, page layout, graphics, relational databases, telecommunications, Email, file conversion utilities, backup and utility software. Must be fluent in English. Send resume, salary requirements and cover letter by November 6, 1996 to: Director of Finance & Administration, MBA, 20 West St., Boston, MA 02111 or E mail (ASCII only) to: accounting@massbar.org. No phone calls. The MBA is an AA/EOE employer.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

The Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools are seeking qualified applicants for the position of Principal to begin no later than July 1, 1997. Present Jr. High is becoming a grade 7 and 8 middle school. Student body is culturally and linguistically diverse. Community, staff and students have high expectations for leadership. Please send a letter of interest and resume to Superintendent Gus A. Sayer, 170 Chestnut Street, Amherst, MA 01002 by December 1, 1996.

The school district is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Candidates of color and from other under represented groups are encouraged to apply.

Campaign Associates

We need four talented individuals to recruit and mobilize corporate, religious and school groups for the 1997 Walk For Hunger. Are you a fast starter, well organized, a team player, have sales and marketing experience and the desire to help hungry people? This full-time, temporary position starts on Jan 13 to May 23 at \$350/wk. Send resume by 11/15 to AG, Project Bread, 11 Beacon St. Rm. 800, Boston, MA 02108. EOE.

ARTS

"Journey to the West"

While the Huntington Theatre Company's production of "Journey to the West" often fails to capture the inner tone and sensibility of the Chinese classic, it generally succeeds at giving expression to the essential ideas of Buddhism that permeate the work.

Based on the Chinese classic "Journey to the West" by Hsi-yu chi, the Boston production tells the story of Tripitaka Tang's journey to India to

Theatre

collect sacred Buddhist texts. Accompanying the Buddhist monk on his trip from China is Sun Wu-K'ung, the monkey king, Chu Pa-Chieh, the pig, and Sha Monk. Their journey involves a series of dangerous and magical encounters with both human and supernatural powers. It's a story in which natural and supernatural forces blend and become almost indistinguishable.

Although it is based on one of



Kim Miyori and Jane C. Cho in "Journey to the West."

China's most popular classics, the play - as you might expect - has the tone and feel of an American production. Just

about everything in it feels American - from the manner in which lines are delivered by its troupe of multicultural actors to the performers' movements across the stage. Even the humor has a directness and an exaggerated quality that feels unmistakably American. Though this at times seems to work, too often it feels awkward and contrived.

Mary Zimmerman, who directed the play, has obviously taken liberties with the original story to give the current production the feel of contemporary life. In one scene, for example, Kuan Yin - a much revered figure in Chinese Buddhism - is seen smoking, which to many Chinese will likely appear farfetched and ridiculous.

The acting in the play ranges from very good to overwrought. Doug Hara - with his agile movements and quirky delivery - is superb as the monkey king, but Soren Oliver's pig lacks subtlety. The play's most obvious shortcoming is

its failure to capture the sensibility of the original work. Though "Journey to the West" is often very funny, its humor seems too loud and boisterous - too exaggerated and unsubtle - to reflect the essence of the original.

Despite these shortcomings, "Journey to the West" is in many ways a lively and entertaining production. With the exception of some lapses in the first act, the play moves along at a fast clip. Also noteworthy are the play's attractive sets and original musical accompaniment. One of the play's strengths is its success in bringing to life the Buddhist flavor of the original story. In a series of reflective moments scattered throughout the play, the essential ideas of Buddhism - non-attachment to worldly things, the need to be true to one's inner "Buddha" nature, and the tyranny of desire - are all revealed with clarity and feeling.

-R.O.

(See Calendar below for times.)

Life in Ho Chi Minh City

In "Cyclo" by Tran Anh Hung, a pedicab driver in Ho Chi Minh City finds himself suddenly tangled in the city's flourishing underworld. Following in his father's footsteps, the Cyclo struggles to eke out a living pedaling passengers around the city.

Film

"Cyclo" is the second feature film by the director of "The Scent of Green Papaya," which was nominated for an academy award several years ago. While this Vietnamese French director used a sensuous visual style in his first film to evoke the daily life of a Vietnamese family, his second film is overwrought and generally ineffective in telling a coherent and believable story.

Though Tran's striking visual style is apparent in his newest film, "Cyclo" is marred by an unfocused story-line and a parade of undeveloped characters. Tran

seems to be trying to graft the stylized posing and violence that characterize Hong Kong gangster films onto his own more subtle and evocative style. The brew, unfortunately, feels artificial and false. Tran seems to have spoiled his own unique style by imitating the excesses of Hong Kong commercial films.

The film's most serious flaw is its characters, who remain ciphers. Even the Cyclo himself remains essentially unknown by the end of the film. Another major character who remains undeveloped in the film is the Poet, a romantic figure who controls the city's underworld. Played by the Hong Kong film star Tony Leung, the Poet spends most of his time on-screen, smoking cigarettes, having nosebleeds, and brooding. And while he has a relationship with the Cyclo's sister, its nature is never made clear: Is she one of his prostitutes, his girlfriend, or both? The only relationship in the film that feels at all



Tran Nu Yen Khe in "Cyclo."

real is the one between the Boss Lady who controls the pedicab trade and her retarded son, who is struck by a fire truck at the end of the film.

"Cyclo" contains a lot of sensational

action and a fair amount of graphic violence, though most of it fails to further the story line. It strives to explore the hidden corruption of a Vietnamese city - its money obsessions, gang violence, and prostitution - but the city it creates feels unreal. I kept wondering if a Vietnamese filmmaker who had spent his entire life in Ho Chi Minh City would recognize Tran's take on it.

The strength of Tran's earlier film was its simplicity and attention to visual detail. Not much happened in the film but it somehow told a compelling story. In "Cyclo," there's a lot of activity, but most of it leads nowhere.

("Cyclo" will be shown at the Coolidge Corner Theatre in Brookline starting Nov. 1.)

-R.O.

Library Assistant Positions

Harvard Divinity School, Andover-Harvard Theological Library. Good organizational, communication and interpersonal skills required; competence in keyboarding, attention to detail, and flexibility essential. 3+ years' experience in a research library and college degree preferred.

Cataloguing Assistant

Reading knowledge of one or more Western European languages required; familiarity with LC and revised AACR2 cataloguing helpful; knowledge of theological scholarship preferred.

Weekend/Stacks Maintenance Supervisor

Duties include supervising student assistants in the accurate creation and utilization of records, insuring that standard library policies and procedures are carried out promptly and accurately. Stack maintenance includes allocating and performing relevant duties such as shelving, shelf-reading, and carrel checks.

Please send cover letter with resume by 11/1/96 to Nancy Grimes, HDS, 45 Francis Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138. EOE, M/F/D/V.

Applications for New Elderly Housing in Worcester

In a joint venture between Oak Hill Community Development Corp. and St. Vincent's Hospital, we are pleased to offer an affordable residence for seniors at Upsala Elder Apartments in Worcester. Fifty one-bedroom apartments will be available for occupancy in early February 1997. Maloney Properties, Inc. will take applications and conduct a brief interview at the brick building on the corner of Spurr and Providence Streets (formerly the St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing). Enter the parking lot from Spurr Street and follow signs to Upsala Elder Apts. at the following items:

Thursday, November 14, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday, November 15, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you are unable to come in person, you may have an application mailed to you by leaving your name and address at (617) 449-7887, ext. 280. All applications must be returned in person or postmarked by November 22, 1996 to be considered for initial occupancy. All applications received by 11/22/96 will be considered equally. Date and time of your application during this rent-up period will not determine selection.

Five apartments have been specially designed for individuals with mobility impairments. There is a laundry room located in the building and all utilities including central a/c are included in the rent.

Rents will be subsidized by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development and residents will pay 30% of their adjusted gross income for rent.

Applicants must be age 62 or older and within the following incomes:

1 person household - \$16,750

2 person household - \$19,150

For more information, call (617) 449-7887, ext. 280

Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. Maloney Properties, Inc. does not discriminate on the basis of handicap status.

**CALENDAR**

"Journey to the West": Oct. 18-Nov. 17, at the Huntington Theatre Company, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston. Tuesdays to Saturdays at 8 pm (excluding Nov. 5); Matinees: Every Saturday and Sunday at 2 pm. Prices: \$12-\$44. Seniors and Students with I.D. eligible for a \$5 discount. For tickets visit the HTC box office, call 266-0800, or Ticketmaster at 931-ARTS. For Groups call: 266-7900, ext. 2565.

English Editor

Robert O'Malley

Chinese Editor

Louise Zhu

Advertising/Feature Editors

Kimberly Sicard

Design and Layout

Robert O'Malley

Louise Zhu

Typesetting/Chinese Edition

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Robert O'Malley, Georgiana Tam

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Sampan welcomes all donations, which are tax-deductible. Send letters to the editor, commentaries, calendar events and advertising for publication to 90 Tyler St., Boston, MA 02111 (617) 426-9492.

Advertising Rates: \$10 per column inch; \$160 per quarter page; \$290 per half page. There are surcharges for translation and/or typesetting. Discounts are available for long-term advertisers.

Sampan is mailed within the U.S. upon request via third class postage for a \$20 charge and first class postage for a \$50 charge.

Calendar/Short News

CALENDAR

Exam School Public Hearing: Nov. 6, 6 pm, the Josiah Quincy School, 885 Washington St., Chinatown. The Boston School Committee's Exam School Assignment Task Force will be holding a public hearing in Chinatown to discuss possible options concerning the assignment of students to Boston Latin School, Boston Latin Academy, and the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science. All interested persons are encouraged to offer input and suggestions at the hearings or through written comments.

South Cove YMCA Chow "Fun" Raiser Dinner Dance: Nov. 16, 6 pm, the Grand China Restaurant, Washington Street, Chinatown. Dinner, dancing, and entertainment. \$40 per person. For reservations or ticket info. call Richard Chin at 426-2237.

Chinese History: Insight and Reflections by Dr. Sarah McElory, Ph.D.: Nov. 5, 12, and 19, 12-1 pm, the Chinese Catholic Pastoral Center, 78 Tyler St., Chinatown. The public is invited. Bring your own lunch; tea, coffee, and soda will be provided.

Allston Brighton Youth Hockey: Three programs will be offered in the coming season: The Learn-to-Skate Initiation Program is for children ages 4 and up; an Intramural Recreational

Program is for youths; and the Greater Boston Youth Hockey Traveling Teams is for more serious hockey players. For info. or to register please call 734-8713.

Amernet String Quartet: Nov. 15, 8 pm, MIT Kresge Auditorium; free and open to the public. The Quartet is a young multicultural ensemble with members from Japan, Korea, Mexico, and the US. For info. call 253-2826.

SHORT NEWS

CAPAY Launches AmeriCorps Program

AmeriCorps is a national network of community service programs that brings people together to perform work in their communities, encourage responsibility, and expand opportunity.

AmeriCorps receives nonpartisan support from national, state, and local legislators. The Massachusetts Legislature has increased state funding for the National & Community Service Commission by 200 percent from \$750,000 to \$1.5 million in FY97, the second largest commitment of state dollars in the nation.

The Community Youth Learn AmeriCorps Program, which has been established by CAPAY, is the first AmeriCorps program in Massachusetts

to target Asian Pacific American young people and their communities. CAPAY AmeriCorps members, who are youths, are engaged in exciting service projects such as organizing homework assistance, enrichment activities, skills workshops, and providing support and outreach to other Asian Pacific American youth. Services are provided on site at CAPAY, the Vietnamese American Civic Association, Castle Square Tenants Organization, and Metropolitan IndoChinese Children and Adolescent Services.

CAPAY AmeriCorps members joined over 30,000 other AmeriCorps members around the country in the AmeriCorps swearing in ceremony Oct. 25. Governor Weld swore in 1,000 members from the state in a ceremony at Copley Square. CAPAY youth leaders Ravi Dixit and Feng Yu were honored at the ceremony for their contribution to building local AmeriCorps/youth service movement.

For info. on AmeriCorps call 287-5658.

Agenda Coalition Endorses Candidates

During the past three months, the Asian Pacific American Agenda Coalition (APAAC) developed and sent a questionnaire to all Massachusetts candidates for the US House of Representatives and the US Senate. This questionnaire was based on the five issue areas in the Asian American Agenda, which had been determined by a community conference. This annual

questionnaire is part of the process of making candidates responsive to Asian American concerns.

Based on the responses, the board and membership of APAAC decided Oct. 16 to recommend a number of candidates to Asian voters. They are:

Congressional District 1
John Olver

Congressional District 4
Barney Frank

Congressional District 5
Martin Meehan

Neither of the candidates for US Senate (Sen. John Kerry and Gov. William Weld) responded to the questionnaire, and they are therefore ineligible for a positive recommendation.

We encourage you to keep these recommendations in mind when you vote this November. Please also share them with your friends. Asian-Pacific Americans in Massachusetts, like those throughout the country, are becoming more politically sophisticated and are acting together to ensure protections of their rights as Americans.

The complete APAAC Candidate Questionnaire and Candidate responses are also available from APACC through Michael Liu at 566-3447.

-The Asian Pacific American Agenda Coalition

Executive Secretary

Oxfam America, a Boston-based international development and emergency response agency, seeks an Executive Secretary to provide comprehensive administrative support to the President's office. Responsibilities include managing executive department communication flow and scheduling; organizing and maintaining general and confidential files; developing tracking systems for projects and reports; drafting and editing correspondence and documents; managing logistics for meetings and special events; and serving as Assistant Secretary to the Board of Directors. Qualifications: Substantial administrative experience including 3+ yrs at the Executive Secretary level, proficiency in WordPerfect and data management, excellent multi-task skills and interpersonal skills, ability to manage confidential information, self-starter, ability to work independently and meet tight deadlines.

To apply submit cover letter and resume by 11/11/96 to Oxfam America, 26 West Street, Boston, MA 02111-1206. Attn: HR/ES/SP

Our People lead

As the recognized leader in managed care, we're seeking more talented, exceptional professionals to add to our remarkable staff.

Manager of Medical Management Administrative Services

The Manager of Medical Management Administration Services will be responsible for the overall administrative support and office management function for the Medical Management department. The successful candidate will need to develop, implement and monitor all administrative operational systems. Responsibilities include hiring, training, and supervising direct supervisors as well as support staff, and working with Medical Management managers to forecast future personnel needs. Additionally, you will work closely with the Medical Management managers and Facilities Department to plan, prepare and coordinate current and future space needs for the Medical Management department. You will also prepare and manage the budget for the administrative department. Minimum of five years' administrative experience along with three years' of supervisory experience is required. Knowledge of MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint as well as being computer literate is required. This position requires excellent interpersonal and negotiating skills, as well as being a team player and having the ability to juggle multiple priorities. Dept. DD

Software Quality Assurance Analyst

As a QA Analyst you will play a key role in the verification and implementation of all significant computer systems modifications or enhancements which support Tufts' many departments. You will need to have a strong knowledge of testing procedures and practices. Also, being responsible for the design and execution of test plans, identifying and resolving problems, and supporting the QA team in a supervisory capacity. A minimum of 8 years' experience in QA is required. Knowledge of COBOL, PowerHouse, TQM/9000, 5E1 CMM highly desirable. Dept. NV

For the above two positions, send resume and salary requirement, indicating Dept. code, to: Tufts Health Plan, HR Dept., 333 Wyman St., Waltham, MA 02254; fax: 617-466-8590.

Customer Relations Coordinators

Tufts Benefit Administrators, is located in Rockland, MA, is looking for Customer Relations Coordinators. Successful candidates will serve current and prospective health plan members via the telephone, by listening to concerns, providing education on plan policies, interpreting benefits and resolving claim issues. Requirements include a High School diploma, BA preferred, and/or experience in a customer service related position, an excellent phone manner, and strong computer skills.

Please send resume and salary history, to: Tufts Benefit Administrators, Inc., P.O. Box 557, Rockland, MA 02370. Attn: C. Dunleavy.

Tufts offers an excellent salary and benefits package. NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE. Dedicated to diversity. An equal opportunity employer.

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An Outstanding Opportunity

The Massachusetts Teachers Association has formed an insurance agency, Educators Insurance Agency, to write, service, and expand group personal insurance programs in which MTA members currently participate. MTA has a membership of over 75,000. Current insurance programs, mainly automobile and homeowners insurance, generate over \$16 million in annual premiums.

MTA is seeking a dynamic executive who will oversee and direct all operations of its subsidiary. The C.O.O. will report directly to the President and General Manager.

The successful candidate will have served in one or more of the following capacities:

- Senior executive of a personal lines insurance company branch/regional office.
- General manager of a large insurance agency with heavy emphasis on personal lines.
- Underwriting manager of a personal lines insurance company.
- Marketing and sales manager for a substantial territory of a personal lines insurance company.
- A professional insurance designation is a definite plus.

Compensation - open, depending on qualifications and experience.

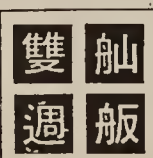
Send resumes in confidence to Personnel Manager, 20 Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108 by November 22, 1996.

MTA
Massachusetts Teachers Association
MTA/ESC is an equal opportunity employer
Women and minorities are encouraged to apply

THE WORK PLACE Career Counselor

Career Center seeks prof. to provide high quality services to Vietnamese and Chinese speaking customers. Must establish quick rapport w/customers to determine service needs. Req: fluency in Vietnamese. Cantonese a plus. Some exp. with gov't funded employment programs also a plus. B.S. Human Svcs or equiv. exp. Code: SD-CC.

The Work Place, 101 Federal Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02110 or fax to (617) 428-0380. Bilingual/Bicultural encouraged to apply. EEO/AA.



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社區活動及簡訊

華人醫務中心

為滿足新移民來美生活需要，華人醫務中心將於一九九六年十一月在華人醫務中心家庭健康生活中心恢復舉辦新移民講座及日常簡便初級英文班。有意學習語言及文化以便早日適應美國生活、環境、認識新朋友並希望早日自立者，請於以下日期前往華人醫務中心家庭健康生活中心報名。

報名時間：十一月四、五、七、八日下午一點至五點。

報名地址：南街一四五號(SOUTH STREET)一樓華人醫務中心家庭健康生活中心。

報名電話：(617) 521-6700。

聯係人：洪姑娘。

會員費：每月暫定十元。

流感預防疫苗注射

華人醫務中心根據麻省之「有關流行性感冒預防針的優先權安排」向下列人士提供感冒疫苗注射：凡年齡六十五歲以上、或身體虛弱、患有(如心臟病、肝病、腎病、糖尿病或嚴重貧血病等)慢性病患者均應接受注射。

注射地址：波士頓華盛頓街八五號華人醫務中心成人科，注射日期為：十一月五日星期二下午一時至五時；十一月七日星期四上午九時至十二時；十一月十二日星期二下午一時至四時；十一月十四日上午九時至十二時；十一月十九日星期二下午二時至四時；十一月二十一日星期四上午九時至十二時；十一月二十六日星期二下午二時至四時。

注射地址：昆士市與國街二七五號二樓華人醫務中心成人科，注射日期：十一月一日星期五上午九時至十一時；十一月十五日星期五上午九時至十一時。

費用：華人醫務中心病人免費(請攜同華人診症藍卡登記注射)；其他人士交納現款五元正(請於登記注射時繳交)。

昆士醫院服務項目與流感疫苗注射

昆士醫院亞裔事務部定於十一月六日(星期三)，上午十一時三十分至十二時三十分，在亞美社會服務協會的華樂青年中心(即昆士市華樂堂內)舉行「瞭解美國醫療服務」的健康講座。由昆士醫院的黎嬰小姐以粵語講解。

講座內容講解當使用美國醫療服務時應注意的事項。例如：如何獲取醫療服務、怎樣約見醫生、與醫生面談時及在急症室時需留意的事項等。黎小姐對美國醫療服務認識甚深，肯定能幫助並解答出席者有關醫療服務的問題。

昆士醫院亦在當日上午十時三十分至十一時三十分，派員在華樂青年中心內，對社區人士提供「免費流行性感冒疫苗注射」，和設午餐款待講座的參加者。

有興趣參加者，請預早報名留位。請在星期一至五，上午十時至十二時致電 773-2631 麥姑娘登記注射及/或出席講座。

此外，昆士醫院亞裔事務部將在下列機構為亞裔人士提供三次的「免費流行性感冒疫苗注射」服務。有興趣參加者，請預早報名。請直接致電聯絡昆士醫院，向黎小姐(617-376-5490)登記。

十一月六日(星期三)，上午十時三十分至十一時三十分，昆士市華樂堂(550 HANCOCK STREET, QUINCY)。

十一月七日(星期四)，上午十時三十分至中午十二時，昆士市大西洋鄰里中心(2 HUNT STREET, NORTH QUINCY)。

十一月十日(星期日)，下午二時至三時，昆士市華人浸信會(WASHINGTON STREET, QUINCY)。

青年會募款餐舞會

華人青年會的募款餐舞會將於一九九六年十一月十六日晚六時在華埠君悅大酒樓舉行。內容有晚宴、舞會和娛樂節目。每位四十元(\$40)，購票與詢問詳情可電華人青年會 Richard Chin (617) 416-2237。

緊急情況反應快可來申請獲獎金

由美國名牌抗胃酸藥製造商 One Minute Maalox 頒發的一項全國性嘉獎正在征候選者，這項獎將頒發給「在危急狀況下能迅速做出決定的人」，全國十個大區內將各選出一名獲獎者，可得五千元獎金和由 Maalox 提供的一千元非盈利捐助金，頒獎儀式將於一九九七年一月在紐約市舉行。

紐英崙六個州和上紐約州為第一區，目前此區內報告應選者甚少，因此希望更多人參選。索取申請表及詢問詳情可洽：「One Minute Maalox」Award, Ruder Finn, 301 East 57th Street, New York, NY 10022，或電 1-800-835-1180。

感恩節賽跑競走

感恩節清晨，在準備豐富火雞晚餐之前，全家何不來活動一下筋骨？波士頓公園與娛樂局組織的第三屆感恩節賽跑，將於十一月二十八日感恩節上午舉行，地點在弗蘭克林公園，早上八時開始註冊報名。競賽項目有早九時開始的兒童賽跑，十歲以下組賽程四分之一英里，十一至十四歲賽程半英里，兒童免交報名費，每年齡組前三名有獎。九時半開始五公里比賽，參賽者需交十元報名費，前三百人可獲T恤衫，五公里賽分年齡組十五至十八歲、十九至三十九歲、四十至四十九歲、五十至五十九歲、以及六十歲以上，每組前三名有獎。詳情和預先報名請電 (617) 635-4505。

小兒科醫生的名作家紀剛先生的抗戰名著《滾滾遼河》，暢銷五十多版，曾獲中山文藝獎，譯為多國文字並改編為影視劇本上演。歡迎大家參加和作者的座談會！

時間：一九九六年十一月十七日(星期日)下午四時至六時。地點：大波士頓區中華文化協會(GBCCA)華人中心。座談會後聚餐(下午六時三十分)每位 \$10.00。

聯絡人：許千美 (862-9202)、熊品 (237-4796)、張哈威 (508-897-6630)。

「亞裔家庭學習分享活動」招生

由華美福利會主辦。
(一)家長英文班
資格：為波士頓低收入家庭之亞裔父母(或祖父母)，需有三至十歲之子女或孫。
內容、上課時間：英文班：學習會話、閱讀、增進聽力及寫作能力等。初班逢星期二及四上午九時至十二時，中班逢星期三及五上午九時至十二時。
座談會：每月一次，有關教育子女認識社會等。
家庭學習分享活動：每月一次，與你子女一同學習有益之兒童故事書。

(二)座談會：「從遊戲中學」
日期：一九九六年十一月四日(星期一)
時間：上午九時至十一時
費用：全免
主辦：幼兒教育專家
內容：①如何從遊戲中學習；②介紹啟發性之遊戲。
報名地點：請往華美福利會或致電 269-9202 向李太查詢。

免費預防感冒注射

日期：一九九六年十一月十二日，星期二。
地點：摩頓家訪護士協會(1 Summer Street, Malden, MA 02148) (摩頓中心地鐵站側 Gateway Apartment 大樓地下)。
時間：下午十二時至一時，下午四時至六時。

文復會舉辦書畫展

「本報訊」波士頓中華文化復興會於十月十九日至二十九日連續十天在儒教中心舉辦了書畫盆景展覽會，以慶祝本年雙十國慶及文化復興節(十一月十二日)。書畫作品七十多幅，作者共十五人，有很多是初次參展的。老手新秀，各有特點，作品均超過以前歷屆同類展覽。盆景展品只有盧治生先生的十盆特選精品，型微勢大、桌上泰山、引人入勝。

先到先得，設中英雙語醫護人員協助。諮詢請電：Shwu-Ling Jane 324-7366 (英語及國語)，或 Richard Cheng 322-2221 轉 5667 分機 (英語及粵語)。



TRI-CITY MENTAL HEALTH AND RETARDATION CENTER

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Busy, elder Outpatient Program seeks a mature, responsible clinician to provide initial evaluations and outpatient psychotherapy including group treatment to elders living at home and in nursing homes. Experience in inservice training and consultation preferred. UCSW required. 32-40hrs. per week. Competitive salary and excellent benefits.

Please send resume by November 8 to: Tri-City Mental Health & Retardation Center, H.R. Dept., 10 Cabot Rd., Medford, MA 02155. AA/EOE.

當然，蝙蝠會吸食你的生命。



假如你是個芒果的話。在我們可供參與的蝙蝠展覽中，你將聽其所聽，見其所見。由於大多數蝙蝠偏愛水果而非人類，所以邀請你作為客人而非被食對象。

Museum of Science

NOV 4-11

Immigrant Worker Health and Safety Advocate

Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health seeks bilingual Trainer/Organizer to provide workplace health and safety education and assistance for immigrants and refugees. 24-40 hrs/week. Exp. in community or labor organizing or Adult Ed. preferred. Biling./Bicult. applicants please apply. EO/AA Employer. Send resume & letter to: MassCOSH, 555 Amory st., Boston, MA 02130 Attn: Laurie

S-C Management Corp. is presently accepting applications for wait list status at the following developments.

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For more information on these wait lists please call 566-0671 on Tuesdays and Thursdays only.



中國神話 美國表演

話劇《西遊記》觀後

惟沂

幕布開啓，舞台轉明，在玉皇大帝與觀音菩薩的道白聲中，展現出石猴出世、海底尋寶、大鬧天空、西天取經等一幕幕場景。這是中國著名古典小說《西遊記》在美國話劇舞台上的展現。這個十六世紀的中國神話故事，經美國女劇作家瑪麗·茲默曼改編成爲一部有著典型美國表演方式的話劇。除主角孫悟空外，每個演員都扮演多個角色；服裝布景既有東方色彩卻又很有前衛西化；化妝不求形似只求神似；場景時空變化自然過渡；上下左右前後都可出場入場；加上抽香煙的觀音菩薩、戴墨鏡的太上老君及西方式的幽默調侃，不能不說這是一出完全全美的美國話劇，但故事內容又確實確實來自中國神話的真相。

發生在第七世紀的中國和尚唐玄奘不遠萬里去印度取回佛教經書的故事，被後人們廣爲流傳加以神話，產生了孫悟空、豬八戒及妖魔鬼怪等神話形象，後來又誕生了《西遊記》這樣一本巨著。西方觀眾也對中國的文化、歷史、傳說等很有興趣。但如何以美國觀眾容易接受的歷史神話故事展現出來，確是個不易的嘗試。話劇《西遊記》能夠在

使觀眾了解衆生相與情節的同時，還傳達了佛教與道教的哲理，可見編導所下功夫之深。許多華人大概對《西遊記》的故事都可如數家珍，對其中每個人物都已有固定印象，或許會認爲此劇中的造型與自己的想象相去甚遠。但對原本對《西遊記》一無所知的美國觀眾來說，能通過看場話劇而了解一段中國歷



史和衆多宗教文化風俗，又記住了許多大名鼎鼎的神話英雄，也是頗有意義的。

值得一提的是，一個小插曲是，我是帶十歲的女兒一起去看美國話劇《西遊記》的，她聽說是個中國故事，就一臉的不屑一顧，在美國長大的華裔孩子們對中國文化藝術的拒絕程度真令我們家長痛心！女兒勉強坐到了劇院裏還在看英文小說，等燈光熄滅後，她便說要睡覺。

越裔影片《三輪車》

在庫利角影院上映

越裔青年導演陳英雄的新片《三輪車》(CYCLO)於十一月一日起在布碌克區庫利角影院上演。陳英雄編導的處女作《青木瓜之香》曾獲國際影展獎，他的制片風格抒情、細膩、充滿人情味和生活氣息，尤其講究攝影技巧。與反映二、三十年代南越西貢市井生活的《青木瓜之香》不同的是，《三輪車》取材於現代越南人的生活。在古舊與現代相交融的胡志明市(原西貢)，一名蹬三輪車的青年和他的姐姐，由於生活所迫，一人陷入黑社會幫派，一人墮落爲妓女。影片描寫了現代越南人在傳統文化與外國影響中尋求出路的矛盾心態。

香港著名影星梁朝偉在《三輪車》中演一黑社會小頭目，有出色表演



不過劇一開始，隨著從台頂壁端騰空而降的群猴出場，女兒便被吸引住了，不僅睡意全無，還常常笑得前仰後合。看完劇後，以前她看中國電視劇也沒弄明白的《西遊記》的故事居然全都弄清楚了，其中的人物雖然全是演員交替多角串演，她也記得明明白白。也許，中國文化西方化的感染力也在於此吧？如果讓美國人和受美國文化影響很快的華人少年兒童硬去接受純中國式的文化藝術，反而會使不少人拒而不納；但在美式包裝下推出中式內涵，卻可能會引起更多人的興趣。

話劇《西遊記》正在波士頓漢金頓劇院(264 HUNTINGTON AVENUE)上演到十一月十七日。

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We are seeking a Computer Operator, Second Shift, 3:30 pm - Midnight, Monday-Friday, for our Rockland, MA office. This person will be responsible for operating an IBM RS6000 computer in a Unix environment. Duties include creating and distributing reports, data updates from tapes, update of system code, system/server maintenance and backups.

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及白人學生入讀考試學校之機會，西語裔及黑裔說，他們之族群佔了公立學校百分之八十。他們要求其族類進入考試學校之配額提高。我們可以想象，將來之考試學校是名不符實，成績低者可以因種族配額而入讀考試學校，亞裔若依百分之五的派位，則將來可以入讀拉丁中學的亞裔學生，寥寥無幾，百分之五？不滿二十人。應入而未入到考試學校中的三分之二亞裔優異學生，將被迫分派到普通無需考試的學校就讀。為人父母者、社會賢達、教育工作者及各長者們，你們目睹你們聰敏的孩子們在普通學校中虛度時光，因其他同學之紛擾無法集中精神上課，或教師因要遷就其他較低程度之學生，無法更深入地教導優異的學生。六年胡混，由天才變成庸才，夢想進入長春藤大學夢碎，偶能進入普通大學，亦因中學基礎不好，無法應付深奧課程，別人識而己不懂，在大學裡追得很辛苦。尤更甚者，學生中途轉校或輟學。父母長輩們到此，才說痛心，則一切均是太遲了。

現在由於白人律師：麥克勞林先生(Michael McLaughlin)勝訴了這場官司，其女兒：朱麗亞(Julia)入讀波士頓拉丁中學，其父主張取消配額制，贊成考試學校應由考試入學，許多家長非常贊成。他們均認為，憑考試入學，學生程度一致，相距程度不大，教師易於教導，學生學習精神高昂，再沒有因程度跟不上而中途轉校或輟學。

亞裔們，現在是你們表示對下一代關心的時候了。無論你是小孩(總有一天，你會長大，有機會進入考試學校)或長輩，請為我們的下一代設想，主張取消「考試學校種族配額制」，提倡應該依據「憑考試優異成績入讀考試學校」。

讀者來信

公校配額制聽證會

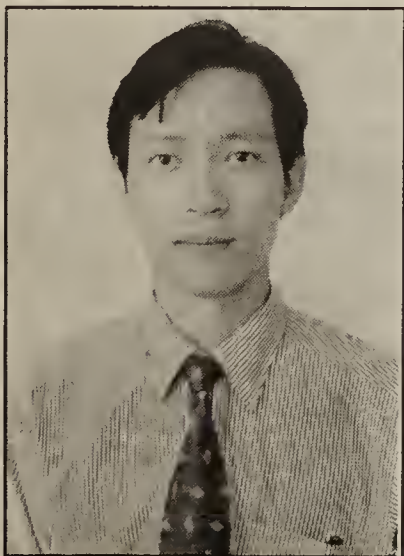
波士頓重點中學的種族配額制問題已引起廣大華裔家長重視。波士頓學校委員會的重點學校招生工作組將在華埠舉辦一次公眾聽證會，討論本市三所考試入學的高中：波士頓拉丁學校、拉丁專科學校、約翰·奧伯瑞特數學科學學校招生

來自大學生的捐獻

麻省理工學院華裔學生俱樂部社區服務主席謝函梅與洪美麗(右起)將五百元捐款支票交給華美福利會執行主任李秋明及教育主任陳婉甜、董事ED CROTTY。麻省理工學院的華裔大學生們在訪問了華埠社區服務機構之後，為華美福利會多年來為新移民提供服務的奉獻精神所感動，因此同學們集資捐款，願對華美福利會和移民們做出些貢獻與幫助。



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Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

標準選擇問題。
聽證會的時間是一九九六年十一月六日晚六時，地點在華埠昆士學校社區中心，歡迎所有關心此事的人參加，並當場或書面提出建議與意見。

育教化文

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華埠社區議會年度選舉

華埠社區議會將於一九九六年十二月一日(星期日)舉行選舉。由上午九時至下午五時在必街街艦隊銀行(FLEET BANK)進行。被選舉人的申請書及選舉條例和資格副本均附在本通知內。所有參選人應對各條例和資格熟悉，及填好表格以

及提出簡要意見，並把表格在一九九六年十一月八日下午五時前交回本議會。參選人的相片可在十一月十一日至十五日內到夏里臣街的SACKLER BUILDING照相，到時會另行通知正確時間以便發出選舉通知和招貼。

南灣區議會選舉守則

是次選舉之議席空缺，三年任期者七席；社團組織議席(三年任期)兩席；代辦機構議席(三年任期)兩席；其他議席(三年任期)一席；華埠商戶議席(三年任期)兩席。

議席類別資格說明

華埠居民定義：
候選人需在華埠範圍內(以波士頓市區域圖所訂華埠界限為根據)居住。候選人在此類別者可以為非亞裔。

社團組織定義：
候選人必須為亞裔，且屬於被確認及有活動的社區組織。該組織需成立超過三年，對亞裔會員提供社交康娛、親情或文化等貢獻者。

代辦機構定義：
候選人必須為亞裔，且是一個被確認及有活動的社區組織(成立至少一年)之活躍會員，其組織乃直接提供社交康娛及或教育服務於亞裔僑社。

其他定義：
候選人必須為亞裔，居於麻省，其住處距離不能影響其出席會議或參與華埠公益事務者。

華埠商戶定義：
候選人必須為亞裔，而其在所定之華埠範圍內擁有、管理或經營亞洲各種行業者。

附加之候選人資格
年齡至少十六歲之上；必須在麻省有永久居留住所；必須許諾致力完成任期；必須在任內每年起碼一次準備作特別小組組員。

選民資格符合條件
非亞裔之華埠居民能夠投票，但須備住址證明；亞裔永久居於麻省者可以投票，但在被要求下，請出示住址證明；選民年齡至少十六歲，在被要求下，請備證明；當投票者親到投票站前，其選民資格的證實可由已符合資格之亞裔選民確認。

選舉日守則

☆選舉日期：一九九六年十二月一日(星期日)。時間：早上九時至下午五時。地點：華埠必殊街及夏里臣街交界之艦隊銀行內。

☆在正式投票及點算選票期間，只準由波士頓選舉局指定之票站工作人員在場內，只有這批特派人員方可協助投票者。

☆揚聲器或擴音機一律不准在投票站內或銀行四週外使用。

☆競選宣傳資料可以派給選民，但助選人員不得從投票者手中取去任何物件。

☆點算選票將在投票後由選舉局代表完成。

☆作為一種公德，請保持華埠清潔，區議會務請各助選團體在投票完成後執拾丟棄之宣傳文件及取回標貼海報。

華埠新聞

華埠再出交通事故 祖孫二人一死一傷

【本報訊】一九九六年十月十日星期五，鄰近華埠的所物街(Shawmut Avenue)和先驅街(Herald Street)交叉路口處又發生一起惡性交通事故，一名南灣區華埠學校學童在其祖母帶領下過馬路時，被一輛紐英崙警務中心的箱形車撞倒，孩子受撞傷及腕部骨折，卻無生命危險，而其祖母卻不幸在送至波士頓市立醫院急診室後就腦死亡，並於星期日清晨去世。

此事件已是該學校過去五年來發生的第三起交通事故，一九九五年五月，南灣區華埠學校一名五歲女童放學後與其父過馬路時被吊車撞斃；再往前推，一九九一年，另一名華埠學校學童被波士頓公校箱形校車撞亡。事故都發生在家長接送學童上下學的時刻，出事的路段都是本市交通最繁忙的街道，在位於所物街一百號的ABCD華埠學校周圍一個街區內還有若干托兒機構和學校。

波士頓社區發展行動(ABCD)總裁兼執行主任羅博特·冠德(Robert Coad)為此提醒家長們多加小心並專門致函曼寧諾市長，提出加強交通安全措施的建議，他提出必須立即實行的交通安全方案包括：

(一)請市里在清晨和下午學童上下學期間派過路警衛，保證學生及家長穿馬路的安全。

(二)延長該地區所有行人過街信號燈的時間，目前只有三十秒

鐘，不足以讓行動不便的老人孩子安然路過。

(三)在每個街口油漆醒目的行人過街橫道。

(四)將「學校區」標誌擴大到上述地段，使駕車人減慢車速。

出版預告

下期(舢舨)將於十一月十五日出版，需翻譯植字的廣告及社區活動欄消息請於十一月八日前交本報處理，多謝合作。

又本刊歡迎各界投稿、來信、及提供有關亞裔社區的消息。

如果你獲得某些公共資助 便能在電話帳單上 每月節省\$9.50或更多。

麻州居民在付電話帳單時可以獲得兩項由NYNEX行使的聯邦低收入資助計劃。這兩項計劃叫作"NYNEX生命線電話資助"和"聯接美國"。

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訪中華耆英會執行主席梅伍銀寬

朱偉健

華裔老年人在美國生活最大的困難是什麼？他們最需要何種幫助？在波士頓中華耆英會工作了二十四年之久的梅伍銀寬對此最爲了解。

梅太說：華裔老年人最需要的，一是住房，二是健康護理。她指出：中國的傳統是幾代同堂大家庭生活，但這習慣到美國後卻發生了變化，一方面是受美國個人獨立和小家庭習俗影響，另一方面也是因美國生活節奏快，工作緊張，中青年人忙於奮鬥謀生，顧不上照顧年老的父母，老人們因語言文化障礙較難與美國主流社會交際，孩子們上班上學之後，自己在家反而感到更孤立。而老人們由於可享用政府福利也更具有獨立性。所以越來越多的老年人希望住進老人公寓，既過集體生活結交朋友互相照顧，又免得爲子女增加負擔。

近二十年來，專爲華裔耆英提供的老人公寓數量劇增，波士頓華埠第一幢老人公寓，有一百七十餘

梅伍銀寬在中城健康護理社



國公民老人就面臨困境，這大概會影響今後老年人移民的數量。我們中國人希望合家庭團圓，子女在美國安頓後，總不願把老年父母單獨留在國內，而許多祖父母來美國後可以照料孫子女，爲忙於工作學習的子女們解決了不少實際困難。新來美國的老年人一般與子女同住，幫他們照看家務，但當孫子女長大後，老人們反顧多餘了。有的家庭是因住房緊張，老人只能住在客廳，如果孩子們晚上想看電影，老人的休息就受影響；還有些家庭買了房子搬到郊區，雖然住房寬敞了，但交通不便，不會開車的老人平時自己出不了門，與鄰居又絕了溝通，孩子們上班後有與世隔絕的孤獨感。因此多數老年人都願自己獨自居住在市區或近郊，申請老人屋者衆多。老人公寓只需合資格居民交納收入的三分之一作爲房租，住在那里的老人還可享受相關服務。申請條件是六十歲以上，有固定月入（社安金、老人金或其他），能夠獨立生活的老年人。一般華裔老人都喜歡住在中國城、南灣或波士頓城區等交通便利的地方。中華耆英會曾幫助許多多老年人獲得了自己的住宅，使得他們全家高興，老人們有了自由獨立的生活環境，與子女每周相聚而融洽了關係。梅伍銀寬認爲：住房問題仍然是老人工作中一項重要環節，福利改革之後，一些住老人屋的居民恐怕會受影響，但只要是合法移民，住房局就不會趕房客出去，但有些非公民的房租可能會作調整。

除了住房之外，醫療健康護理也是老年人最需要的。人到老年最怕生病，在中華耆英會工作多年，梅太深知老人們急需何種醫療護理，她認爲政府補助的免費醫療一方面不是每個人都能享用，另一方面又小病不治，浪費錢財，資金未用到關鍵之處，還使許多老人因無醫療補助或不知如何看病而耽誤了病情。另外，年高病重的老人長期住院或療養院的費用很貴，而且床位有限，若能在家里得到專業護理則是方便省錢之事。因此梅伍銀寬於數年前創辦了「中城健康護理社」，這是一家專爲需醫療護理的老年人提供上門服務的私營機構。政府也希望有病的老年人能留在家或社區得到照料，不僅方便患者與家人，也爲國家節省資金。中城健康護理社有二十多名職業護士，還有社工、家庭護理員等。目前的服務對象是經過醫生介紹的患者，各族裔都有，由於該護理社有不少華裔醫務人員，可以爲需幫助的華裔老人提供更好的服務。醫務人員可以定期到患者家中診病、護理、照顧生活所需，患者及家屬們都感到不出家門就能享受專業化的醫療護理非常便利。梅伍銀寬說自己一生都在爲老年人謀福利，因此做的都是急老人們之所需。目前，面臨福利改革對移民的巨大沖擊，許多老人家有入籍的迫切需要，又因英文不好懼怕考試，梅太表示：中華耆英會等社區機構將對渴望入籍的老年人盡力幫助，想方設法教他

們英文和入籍知識，盡早通過考試成爲美國公民，以獲得應享用的福利，也獲得表達自己意願的選民權利。

由於多年來對老人事務的出色貢獻，梅伍銀寬女士今年獲得麻州華埠市長頒發的獎章。雖然梅太長期忙於華埠，但她所管理的老人事務卻並不只限於華裔，她還曾二次應邀去白宮與總統和國家首腦共商老人及移民福利問題。她說：「我心目中還有許多許多要開展的新計劃，這並非野心，只是根據需要。因爲政策在不斷變化，老年人的狀況與需求也在變化，必須隨時推行滿足急需的新計劃，才算是我們的工作做得符合人意。例如入籍、教育、職業培訓等都是將來要做的。」

梅伍銀寬出生於波士頓，但在七歲至十二歲卻回到中國廣東，先在故鄉的小村和香港渡過了幾年時光，因此她能講粵語。由於年輕時早婚，她未能完成大學學業，但卻一直在社會實踐中學習。她說當年心願一是不太窮，因而得想法掙錢；二是要爲社會做些事，因而得不斷學習充實知識技能。她起先幫丈夫經商，並積極參加社區籌款等活動，顯示了很強的組織與策劃能力，當她爲中華耆英會工作之後，她發現以往的經驗對管理很有幫助，儘管是非盈利機構，如缺乏商業管理頭腦，也不一定能很好地經營；然而，她並無社會工作經驗，因此這方面的知識都是從頭學習。如今，作爲四個子女的母親，在不斷學習新事物，開創新項目，隨著她自己也加入老年人的行列，她更願爲老年人事務做更多的貢獻。

專人訪物

舢舨

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筆試

近一年多來，參加入籍考試和宣誓成為美國公民的新移民越來越多，原因是由於從外國移居美國的人口增加，再者是由於美國近來反移民情緒的高漲和許多不利於外國移民的福利改革方案的出籠，反而加速外國新移民盡快成為美國公民，以便合法享有美國福利。

申請

以授權開辦入籍筆試的華美福利會為例，以往每月在該會考試中心參加筆試者約一百多人，現在則有二百七十多人。華美福利會負責入籍考試服務的曾嘉兒小姐介紹：凡是獲得美國永久居民身份（綠卡）五年以上的外國人，都可以申請加入美國籍，每一個申請入籍者都先要填「100」入籍申請表，還需要接

個人責任及就業機會法（福利改革法）與你

最近美國國會及總統簽署了社會福利改革法案，而將會嚴重影響現正領取社會福利的人士，例如：福利金、糧食券、老人或傷殘補助金。以下的問題可能與你有切身關係：

我可以領取福利嗎？

如果你在法案通過後才成為移民，你不能領取老人／傷殘補助金（SS）及糧食券，除非你是：

☆美國公民

☆美國退伍軍人

☆合法永久居民並在美國工作（及報足社會保障稅）滿四十個季度或滿十年，或

☆難民，得政治庇護，特赦不滿一年或法庭批准延期遞解出境（你可以在頭五年領取福利）——你可以申請麻省的老人／傷殘補助。

我沒有身份，我可以領取福利嗎？

大部份聯邦政府的福利，你都不能領取，但你可使用非現金的服務，如緊急醫療、防疫注射等。我想申請父母來美，他們可以拿老人金或其他福利嗎？

受移民局官員的面談，內容包括對美國歷史、政治、國家系統知識的測驗和個人情況調查，嬰幼兒也要接受面談，但無需測試，可由家長或監護人代簽名。自一九九二年三月起，美國開始推行入籍筆試，申請入籍者可以先通過筆試，由於筆試內容已涉及有關國家系統、歷史、政治等方面，因此筆試合格者在面談時可免試這部分內容。這節省了移民局面談時間，也使申請人感到方便，因為許多英文不流利對美國又不甚了解的新移民很怕當場面試，怕因緊張答錯從而影響入籍，而事先通過了筆試，就有了很大把握，也免得面談時被問及這些不太擅長的問題。幾年來，參加筆試的人越來越多，筆試通過率也相當高。

華美福利會自一九九二年六月起就開始了入籍筆試服務，在全波士頓是第一家，屬於國家入籍輔導服務中心正式授權的考試中心之一。近幾年來，本地的入籍考試中心和入籍學習班已如雨後春筍不斷湧現，但仍難完全滿足越來越多的新移民申請入籍的需要。華美福利會當初每三個月舉行一次入籍筆試，後來已改為每個月一次，從今年春季起是每月第二個星期六上午分別在八時半和十時十五分舉行兩場筆試，仍有不少報名者需排隊等候。打算參加筆試者可於考試日期前兩周到華美福利會報名，交考試費三十元，考試後兩星期可獲成績通知，如果沒通過可以免費再考一次。考試通常有二十個題目，答對十二個以上便可通過，參加英文入籍考試者還要聽寫兩個簡單的英文句子。

不。大部份新移民在一九九六年八月二十二日後入境的，都不能領取老人／傷殘補助金（SS）及糧食券，除非他們在美工作多年，繳足稅或入籍成為公民。你的父母移民的頭五年不能領取大部份的福利，而在接著的五年，如果你和你父母的收入是非常低，他們可能合資格領一些福利，但政府有權向你追討這些福利的錢。

移民身份的資料，房署可以加你租，但一旦房署知道你没有身份，他們要通知移民局。我領過福利，會被遞解出境嗎？到目前，移民局甚少以領取福利做理由遞解人出境。原本，有提案建議遞解會領福利的永久居民出境，但法例沒有通過。

我沒有醫療保險，但又生病，我該怎麼辦？如果你是合法居民，你可以申請醫療卡或免費醫療（FREE CARE），麻省仍未立法限制這些服務。如果你沒有身份，你可以申請緊急醫療，使用急症室及免費醫療，你可以到就近的醫院或社區服務中心。

我不是美國公民，現在住在政府屋，我會被遞解出境嗎？如果你是永久居民，你不會被迫搬出或失去房屋津貼。如果你沒有身份又住在政府屋或領房屋津貼，我會被遞解出境嗎？

如果我是永久居民滿五年，或你的配偶是美國公民而你已移民三年以上，你可以申請入籍。很多社區團體都有入籍班，你可以向他們查詢。你成了公民後，你有權投票，可以影響法例的通過，保障你和你家人的權益。

法例規定，哪些機構必要向移民局提供非法移民的資料？房屋署、福利局、社會安全保障局都必須與移民局合作，提供非法移民的資料，其他政府及非牟利機構都不需要與移民局合作，除非有關當局選擇這樣做。

選自麻省移民權益聯盟大波士頓法律援助處出版物

面談

考試合格的通知書請自己保留，在去移民局進行面談時再出示給移民官員，便可免於當場口試這部分內容。有些人先將考試合格書寄去移民局，反而因丟失造成許多麻煩，移民局不接受復印件，因此最好自己保存原件並當面展示給移民官員。移民官員會只詢問你個人情況，而免考國家知識。

宣誓

新移民們在通過面談之後，就被批准加入美國籍，但入籍日要從你在星條旗下宣誓日算起。麻州一般每年安排二、三次新公民入籍宣誓，通常是在波士頓市中心的芬紐廳。隨著近年來入籍人數的增多，每次宣誓的都有五、六百人，每年入籍宣誓儀式次數也有增加，並增設了其他宣誓場所。宣誓當日，新公民將獲得「公民紙」，並需將「綠卡」上交。如需要美國護照者，則要憑公民紙到北火車站附近的辦公室（10 Causeway Street, 2nd Floor, Boston, MA 02114）或主要郵政局辦理。

準備

成為美國公民是許多人一生中的大事，因此大家都希望順利通過考試與面談。不過許多新移民擔心自己的英文水平有限和美國知識貧乏，生怕通不過考核。現在的入籍筆試比較容易通過，來華美福利會報名筆試者亦可獲得中英文對照的參考材料，有助於複習應考。為照顧英文有困難的老年移民，年滿五十五歲以上來美十五年，或五十歲以上來美二十年者，可以參加中文考試。華美福利會自十一月起開始舉行中文入籍筆試，時間是每月第一個星期五下午一時三十分。中文筆試的報名收費相同。該會還可為不識英文者提供代填申請表、或去移民局當翻譯等服務。有些來美時間不足十五年的老年人尚無資格參加中文筆試，據說已有提案建議六十五歲來美五年的老人可以本國語言考試，但尚未成為定案。華美福利會入籍筆試的通過率在百分之九十二以上，如對考試無

把握者還可參加該會舉辦的入籍學習班，每兩週一次，分每週學習三天，和每週六學習一次的強化班，後者適合於英文較好、平時需工作的上班族人士，每期學費六十元。有些人英文實在太差，則需先參加英文班提供語言能力。福利政策的改革，將使許多非公民者失去社會補助，迫使許多人非入籍不可。本地許多社區機構正在為這些新移民提供英語、入籍、就業、福利等各方面的服務。加入美國籍的好處，除可享受公民服務外，還可使用自己的選舉權來選出我們的代言人，向政府表達我們的呼聲。

公民，以便合法享用社會福利；對新來者進行英文與就業培訓，使尚有工作能力的移民們能自食其力，一方面為美國做些貢獻，另一方面也累積本人的工作報稅記錄；還提供有關法律諮詢、辦理文件手續、翻譯等服務。

有些來美工作年頭雖不少，卻一直沒有報稅的人，還有已獲綠卡後在美國住得時間不夠長者，或者在中美兩國間奔波的「空中飛人」，在申請有關福利或入籍時可能會遇到麻煩，應該盡早向律師或有關係機構請教。

中國人有勤奮努力自食其力的傳統，許多人並不願依靠救濟為生，尤其是來到另一個國家，並不是來向美國人乞討的。絕大多數華人移民都從未領取過任何美國社會福利，他們有職業、交納稅，年老後也有退休金和社安金，或者自己準備了養老金等，這是他們勞動所得。只有少數人需要依靠美國的福利，這主要是老年來美的移民或者語言文化技能體力實在太差而難勝任何工作者，他們也確有具體困難需要實際幫助。

天無絕人之路，壞事可以變成好事。福利與移民法律的改變或許也可促使一些新移民盡快完成過渡，在美國找到自己的位置；也可告誡尚未來美國的人減少移民的盲目性。

前進會新址開幕

華人前進會於搬至夏里臣街三十三號新址已有數月，由於新址位於華埠中心，場地也寬敞，便於該會更好地服務於華人及工友。十月十九日，華人前進會正式舉行新址開幕典禮，中國駐紐約總領館僑務組付秉廉等專程前來祝賀並會見僑胞。還有中國鄉土舞團、劍橋中文學校、黃河藝術團等表演文藝節目助興。



福利與移民法改革關係男女老幼切身利益

面對福利與移民法的改變

朱偉儀

封面故事

十月二十三日，華埠昆士學校禮堂，近二百名社區民衆在聆聽關於福利改革與移民法的解說。在美國參眾兩院對多項提案進行了長期討論表決之後，柯林頓總統最終批准了這項福利改革與移民法案，這些對成千上萬移民影響深遠的條款已最終成爲了必須遵守的移民法律。那麼，移民們的生活及福利待遇將會面臨何種改變呢？這正是此次說明會要解答的。

大會由華人前進會主任黃夏儀女士主持，在陳清音、李蔭堂等做了說明之後，大波士頓法律援助處的兩位工作人員分別用英、粵語將移民福利法修改後的影響逐條加以解說。由總統在一九九六年八月二十二日簽署的「一九九六年福利與移民法」，直接影響到在該日之後進入美國的所有新移民，這些人不能再享受以往爲合法移民提供的一切福利援助，如糧食券、老人屋、老人傷殘補助金、免費醫療卡等等，對某些人來說，如果不靠自己工作獲得收入，將意味著失去基本生活、居住、醫療的一切來源。對許多是爲了追求更好生活而來美國的人來說，面臨的卻是暗淡的前景。

問卷調查：你是美國公民嗎？

你在領取老人補助金等福利嗎？

因此參加此次說明會的聽衆中，華裔老年人佔了大多數，他們許多人都是在靠老人補助金(S.S.I)生活，住在老人屋，享受免費醫療，福利改革對他們的影響最大。在該法律簽署之前，即一九九六年八月二十二日前入境的移民，如果是美國公民、美國退伍軍人、合法永久居民並在美工作報稅社會保障稅滿十年(夫妻二人可以共做十年)、或難民與政治庇護者等，則可繼續享受大部份福利補助。然而，許多老年移民由於來美時已幾乎喪失工作能力，因此沒有足夠的做工報稅經歷，想入籍又因英文差而擔心不被批准，將來的境遇就很難預料。

在昆士學校參加說明會的許多老人家都有與林太太同樣的擔憂，在現場統計時發現，只有不到四分之一的人已是美國公民，而來美之後累計做過十年以上工作並交社會保障稅者更少，大多數人雖有綠卡卻沒有足夠的工作報稅記錄。所有領取社會福利補助的人，近期都將收到通知，告訴福利補助即將停止，除非本人提供有關資格證明。

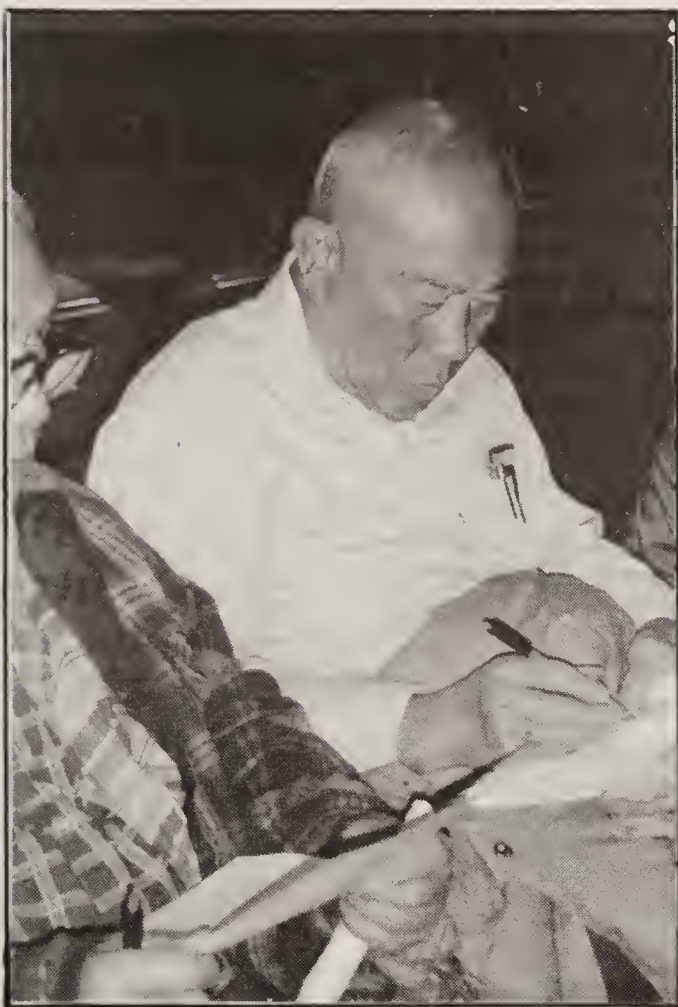
老人/傷殘補助金(S.S.I)是自七十年代起才實行的一項社會福利補助政策，使人民老有所依，大大減少了無家可歸者的人數。當然社會福利的巨額耗資，使政府不得不動腦筋對一些項目進行限制，首當其衝被減的就是新移民，這與近年來再次掀起的反移民潮有關。目前的福利法影響最大的就是移民來美後，不能爲這個國家多做貢獻的人，主要就是老年人，這也使許多想接老年父母來美團聚的中青年們心有餘悸。盡管中國人注重家庭團聚，但來美後的現實生活問題不能不考慮，對一些經濟狀況穩定的專業人士來說，雖然爲父母提供衣食住行並不困難，但老年人處於體弱多病之年，如果不能享受免費醫療，萬一有病便會因巨額醫藥費而傾家蕩產，這是每個人都懼怕的後果。不過，在醫療福利一向較好的麻州，仍未立法限制這些服務，即便得不到醫療卡(Medicaid)，合法居民仍可申請免費醫療(Free Care)，無身份者亦可申請緊急醫療，可以到就近醫院急症室或社區醫務中心使用免費醫療。

除老年人外，其他享用社會福利金的移民也會受到影響。李太太美已十八年，曾領取過多年政府救濟金，正當壯年的李太太並不像老年人們沒有勞動能力，問起爲何要領救濟金，她表示：來美之後曾經做過一些辦公室職員工作，但由於英文不好，工作中有差錯被人抱怨，自己覺得低人一等，因此決心去學習。多年來她參加過英文班、職業培訓班，現在還在邦克丘社區學院學習，再修二、三門課就可獲大學文憑。由於當年自己要讀書、孩子幼小、丈夫又去世，爲了生活不得不申請救濟金。其間她也曾做過不少工作，但多數爲義工、臨時工或半職工作，收入有限而且沒有保障，所以還在不斷申請救濟金。她已接受通知：救濟金最多領到今年十二月，雖然救濟金的官員們態度和藹，但這是法律規定，工作人員的同情也無濟於事。李太太說她自己尚是中年，還有能力去找工作，而且兩個孩子都已長大可以獨立，境況與以往不同了。她願意做社區服務類的工作，在過去數年中，也曾積極參與社區工作，爲若干社區組織以及保衛地段做義工，但那些機構都是非盈利，沒有資金來聘用她。她希望找到工作機會而自食其力，同時完成學業。像她這樣的中老年人尚無資格領取老人金，所領的社會救濟金性質不同，她說其實華人領這類救濟者很少，她每次去有關部門都見不到幾張亞裔面孔，但奇怪的是許多青壯年美國人卻長年依靠救濟。李太太表示：「美國人不像我們，他們沒有語言障礙，不少人又身強力壯，不會找不到工作，爲何要靠救濟過日子？」她認爲救濟金起了正反兩方面作用，一方面幫助失業者渡過難關，另一方面也助長了一些人的懶惰，因爲美國政府的一些規定很不聰明，例如你若有了工作掙到錢，哪怕數額有限，也得從救濟金中減去，因此有些人感到：我勞動半天，總收入卻沒增加，還不如光吃救濟保險。再例如李太太的姐姐去世時留給她一輛舊汽車，救濟署卻認爲她有了價值超過一千元的汽車作爲財產，便不再發給救濟金，使她不敢保留別人送的財物，還不得不經過爭去爭取救濟福利。李太太說也有不少入爲減少救濟金拍手稱快，包括她自己的兄弟也這樣，認爲省得養一些不勞而獲的懶人。她也認爲移民們來到美國還是應盡量爲這個國家多做貢獻，而不要成爲美國人民的負擔，不過對因不同原因領福利金者也不能一概而論，尤其是習慣勤奮工作的華人，領救濟金是在走投無路之後不得已而爲之。

原來的福利與移民法案中，還要有將領取過若干年以上福利補助的移民遞解出境的條款，但是未獲批准通過。

福利與移民法通過後，住在老人屋與低收入住房的移民們會否受到影響呢？房屋署有義務向移民局或其他機關報房客情況，如果房東或房屋部門不來查問，住戶們只管安心居住，但如果前來調查，還是如實說明自己的身份與情況，否則會犯欺詐罪。一般來說，合法移民仍可繼續住下去，而無合法身份者，通常也不會被趕出住宅，但房租卻可能會被調漲，無資格再享受低收入住房待遇。

醫療保險也是大家最關心的話題之一。在此法通過以後，許多非美國公民者可能不再享有醫療卡(Medicaid)，若需看病將如過大難。不過麻州政府仍會給低收入移民們必要的照顧，例如可申請免費醫療(Free Care)，非法移民也有權享用非現金援助，如緊急醫護等。而且醫療機構並無義務向當局匯報患者身份，因此移民們有病切勿遲延就醫。麻州政府還打算給一些受到影響的移民相應補助，使他們不至於因斷絕生活來源而無路可走。至於糧食券、燃料補助等，原本數額不多，倒不見得削減後會對移民們的生活有太大影響。中華耆英會執行主席梅伍銀女士說：「爲領十元糧食券得做一大堆文件，實在很麻煩，少了這項倒省事許多，不過其他福利的改革卻對不少移民影響很大。」



英文入籍考試談何容易。所幸的是，經過刻苦學習，林太太已通過了入籍筆試，正在等待面試。如果成爲不了美國公民因而不能享用社會福利保障，她認爲自己唯一的出路就是回中國去，那里生活花費低，可以在老家廣東農村種地爲生。靠姐妹移民來美的林太太有四名子女，三人在美國，還有一個留在中國。問到能否依靠子女過活，她表示在美國的幾名子女都靠打餐館謀生，自己的生活已很艱難，再養父母是不可能的。

在昆士學校參加說明會的許多老人家都有與林太太同樣的擔憂，在現場統計時發現，只有不到四分之一的人已是美國公民，而來美之後累計做過十年以上工作並交社會保障稅者更少，大多數人雖有綠卡卻沒有足夠的工作報稅記錄。所有領取社會福利補助的人，近期都將收到通知，告訴福利補助即將停止，除非本人提供有關資格證明。

老人/傷殘補助金(S.S.I)是自七十年代起才實行的一項社會福利補助政策，使人民老有所依，大大減少了無家可歸者的人數。當然社會福利的巨額耗資，使政府不得不動腦筋對一些項目進行限制，首當其衝被減的就是新移民，這與近年來再次掀起的反移民潮有關。目前的福利法影響最大的就是移民來美後，不能爲這個國家多做貢獻的人，主要就是老年人，這也使許多想接老年父母來美團聚的中青年們心有餘悸。盡管中國人注重家庭團聚，但來美後的現實生活問題不能不考慮，對一些經濟狀況穩定的專業人士來說，雖然爲父母提供衣食住行並不困難，但老年人處於體弱多病之年，如果不能享受免費醫療，萬一有病便會因巨額醫藥費而傾家蕩產，這是每個人都懼怕的後果。不過，在醫療福利一向較好的麻州，仍未立法限制這些服務，即便得不到醫療卡(Medicaid)，合法居民仍可申請免費醫療(Free Care)，無身份者亦可申請緊急醫療，可以到就近醫院急症室或社區醫務中心使用免費醫療。



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解釋福利與移民法律

第一夫人在昆士競選宣傳

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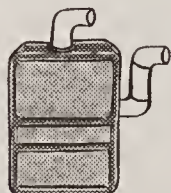
王軍濤（哈佛大學政府學院）：
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王誌信（AIG公司）：香港人
的尷尬。

鍾倫納（麻州州府社會學家）：
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時間：一九九六年十一月十五
日晚七時至十時。
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